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(72) Inventor: Sherman, James Francis
7978 Whitmore Lake Road
Brighton,
Michigan 48116 (US)(43) Date of publication of application:
29.03.95 Bulletin 95/13(74) Representative: Denton, Michael John et al
Patent Section
1st Floor
Gideon House
28 Chapel Street
Luton
Bedfordshire LU1 2SE (GB)(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB(71) Applicant: GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION
General Motors Building
3044 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit
Michigan 48202 (US)

(54) Power train and power transmission therefor.

(57) The present invention relates to a power train that is interposed between the internal combustion engine (11) and the drive ratio selection transmission (39) of a vehicle. An electric motor/generator (14) is operatively connected to a power transmission (10), and the power transmission selectively drives accessories (53-56) to the internal combustion engine, such as an oil pump, power steering pump and air conditioning compressor. The power transmission employs compounded first and second planetary gear sets (19,21). A common gear member (16) serves not only as the ring gear for the first planetary gear set but also as the sun gear for the second planetary gear set. The electric motor/generator drives the accessories when the internal combustion engine is idling or off, allowing those accessories to be smaller while delivering adequate output.

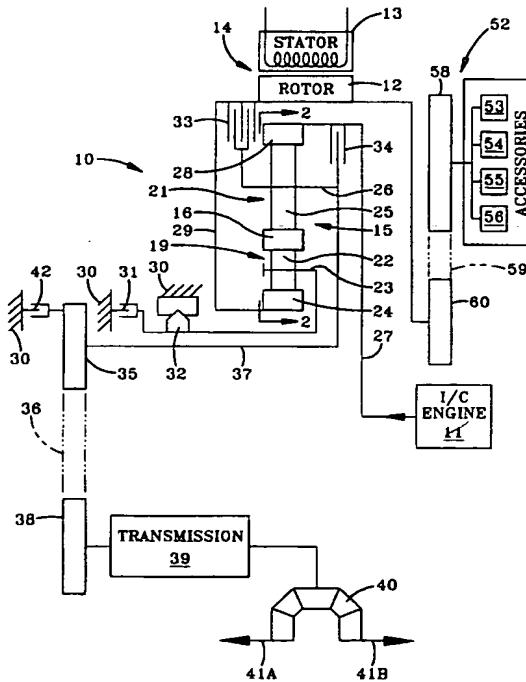


FIG-1

The present invention relates generally to vehicular power transmissions. More particularly, the present invention relates to a power transmission that is capable of receiving input torque from both an electric motor and an internal combustion engine, a power train incorporating such a power transmission, and a method of driving accessories through such a power train.

Specifically, the present invention relates to an integrated hybrid power transmission that is operatively connected to an integral electric motor/generator that not only starts the internal combustion engine, but also augments a friction starting clutch with electrically generated torque and/or electric motor inertia torque for launching movement of the vehicle.

The rotational power input to the normally engine-powered accessories, such as oil pumps, power steering pumps and the like, is provided at the connection of the internal combustion engine to the input of the hybrid power transmission. The input to the accessories is, therefore, continuously rotated with the rotor of the electric motor/generator. This arrangement makes it possible to take advantage of the power provided by, and the rotational rate of, the electric motor/generator, rather than limit the input to the accessories to that receivable directly, and exclusively, from the internal combustion, as has been customary with prior art arrangements.

The present invention relates to power transmissions to coordinate the torque output of an electric motor/generator and an internal combustion engine to a drive ratio selection transmission, and especially to planetary gear sets and the associated torque transfer devices utilised for providing the desired interaction between the internal combustion engine and the electric motor/generator to meet the economic and emission requirements of internal combustion engines to propel vehicles.

The power transmission disclosed herein drives engine accessories when the internal combustion engine is idling, or even turned off, thereby allowing those accessories to be designed for operation in conjunction with the rotor of the electric motor/generator, the minimum speed of which is of the order of two to three times the idling speed of an internal combustion engine.

Motor/generators have heretofore been employed for launching vehicles. However, the prior art has not appreciated and has not, therefore, disclosed how an integrated motor/generator can be incorporated in the overall operation of a vehicle for more effectively driving accessories, such as the air conditioning compressor and the power steering pump.

A power train and a power transmission therefore in accordance with the present are charac-

terised by the features specified in Claims 1 and 7 respectively.

The present invention provides a power transmission that permits the normally engine-operated accessories to be driven by the electric motor/generator, either with or without the assistance of the internal combustion engine.

The present invention may also provide a power transmission, as above, that utilises the inertia available from the electric motor/generator to assist in driving the normally engine-operated accessories.

The present invention may further provide a power transmission, as above, wherein the power train provides a greater electrical generating capacity from a motor/generator than is currently available with belt-driven generators.

The present invention may still further provide a power transmission, as above, that permits a silent engine start and no engine load in the idle condition.

In general, the present invention relates to a power train for a vehicle having an internal combustion engine to provide one torque source and a drive ratio selection transmission. The power train includes a power transmission that is interposed between the internal combustion engine and the drive ratio selection transmission. In a preferred embodiment, a motor/generator is operatively connected to the power transmission, and the power transmission selectively adds and subtracts torque provided by the motor/generator to the torque provided by the internal combustion engine, and vice versa.

The interconnection provided by the power train between both the internal combustion engine and the motor/generator to the drive ratio selection transmission is accomplished by a power transmission. The power transmission preferably employs compounded first and second planetary gear sets. The first and second planetary gear sets each have a sun gear, a ring gear and a plurality of planetary gears. The planetary gears are mounted on respective first and second carriers operatively to connect the sun and ring gears of the respective planetary gear sets.

Although conventional compounding of the planetary gear sets may be employed, it should also be appreciated that a common gear member may serve not only as the ring gear for the first planetary gear set, but also as the sun gear for the second planetary gear set. The internal combustion engine is adapted selectively to provide torque to the ring and carrier of the second planetary gear set.

Means are preferably also provided selectively to transfer torque between the motor/generator and the sun gear of the first planetary gear set and the

second carrier. Further means selectively transfers torque between the drive ratio selection transmission and the internal combustion engine, the ring gear of the second planetary gear set and the motor/generator, through the second carrier. The first carrier is selectively connected to ground, and means selectively connect the drive ratio selection transmission to ground.

The power transmission provided by the present invention is operative to add or subtract torque from the motor/generator to torque from the internal combustion engine in order to provide the most favourable fuel economy and/or emissions control. The power transmission also drives the accessories to the internal combustion engine when the engine is idling, thereby allowing the accessories to be smaller.

The present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a schematic sectional representation of a power train in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged schematic plan view of the compound planetary gear set of the power transmission of the power train of Figure 1 taken on the line 2-2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a diagrammatic representation --commonly referred to as a "Lever Analysis" -- of the power transmission of Figure 1 in the Engine Start Mode;

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic representation similar to Figure 3 of the power transmission in the Regenerative Mode;

Figure 5 is a diagrammatic representation similar to Figure 3 of the power transmission in the Vehicle Launch Mode;

Figure 6 is a diagrammatic representation similar to Figure 3 of the power transmission in the Motor/Generator Coupling Mode;

Figure 7 is a diagrammatic representation similar to Figure 3 of the power transmission in the Internal Combustion Engine Coupling Mode; and

Figure 8 is a diagrammatic representation similar to Figure 3 of the power transmission in the Reverse Mode.

With reference to the drawings, and particularly Figure 1, a power transmission, generally identified at 10, receives input torque from an internal combustion engine, schematically identified at 11, as well as from a rotor 12 that is rotatable relative to the stator 13 of an electric motor/generator, identified generally at 14.

The power transmission 10 employs a compound planetary gear set that is identified generally by the numeral 15 in Figures 1 and 2. The compound planetary gear set 15 is fully described in US Patent No. 5,285,111 incorporated herein by

reference. The aforesaid compound planetary gear set 15 utilises a common connecting gear 16. The radially inner surface of the connecting gear 16 is provided with a plurality of teeth 18 that allow the connecting gear 16 to serve as a ring gear in a first planetary gear set 19 in the compound planetary gear set 15. The connecting gear 16 is also provided with a plurality of teeth 20 that allow the connecting gear 16 to serve as a sun gear in a second planetary gear set 21 of the compound planetary gear set 15. As such, the common connecting gear 16 simultaneously serves as a sun gear and as a ring gear.

With reference to the first planetary gear set 19, the teeth 18 which allow the common connecting gear 16 to serve as a ring gear meshingly engage a plurality of pinion or planetary gears 22 that are connected by a carrier 23. The planetary gears 22 are also meshingly engaged with a sun gear 24. Thus, the sun gear 24, the planetary gears 22 mounted on the carrier 23 and the teeth 18 which serve as the ring gear portion of the common gear 16, constitute the first planetary gear set 19.

With reference to the second planetary gear set 21, the teeth 20 which allow the common connecting gear 16 to serve as sun gear in the second planetary gear set 21 meshingly engage a plurality of pinion or planetary gears 25 that are connected by a carrier 26. The planetary gears 25 are also meshingly engaged with a ring gear 28. Thus, the teeth 20 which allow the common gear 16 to serve as a sun gear, the planetary gears 25 mounted on the carrier 26 and the ring gear 28 constitute the second planetary gear set 21.

It should also be observed that the ring gear 28 on the second planetary gear set 21 is permanently connected to the internal combustion engine 11 by virtue of a transmission input shaft, as represented by line 27 in Figure 1. A damper, not shown, may be added between the ring gear 28 and the engine 11 to reduce engine torque pulsations.

The sun gear 24 in the first planetary gear set 19 is permanently connected by a link or hub 29 (Figure 1) to the rotor 12 of the electric motor/generator 14, such that those two structural elements of the power transmission 10 will only rotate in unison.

The carrier 23 of the first planetary gear set 19 is selectively connected to ground 30 through a torque transfer device in the nature of a friction brake 31. A one-way clutch 32 is also interposed between the carrier 23 and ground 30 in order to assure that the carrier 23 can only rotate in one direction.

The common connector gear 16 is engaged solely by the planetary gears 22 and 25 of the first and second planetary gear sets 19 and 21, respec-

tively.

The carrier 26 in the second planetary gear set 21 is selectively connectable to the rotor 12, as through a first torque transfer device 33. The carrier 26 is also selectively connectable to the ring gear 28 of the second planetary gear set 21 through a second torque transfer device, in the nature of a clutch 34. The carrier 26 is, in addition, permanently secured to an output sleeve shaft, represented by line 37 in the drawings. The sleeve shaft 37 is connected to a pulley 35 which constitutes the output member by which torque is transferred --as by a chain drive 36 --from the power transmission 10 to an input pulley 38.

The input pulley 38 is presented from a standard drive ratio selection transmission 39 that may also incorporate one or more planetary gear sets, as is well known in the art. As is also conventional, the drive ratio selection transmission 39 may be connected, as through a differential 40, to the final drive shafts or axles 41A and 41B of the vehicle, not shown, in which the power transmission 10 is utilised.

Finally, the pulley 35 -- to which the carrier 26 of the second planetary gear set 21 in the power transmission 10 is permanently secured -- is itself selectively connected to ground 30 through a torque transfer device in the nature of a brake 42.

In most prior art designs, accessories are driven through belt connections to the internal combustion engine. Such accessories include oil pumps, power steering pumps, air conditioning compressors, transmission oil pump, etc. Because such accessories are generally belt-driven from the internal combustion engine, the efficiency of their operation is subject to the speed at which the engine is operated. Therefore, the accessories must be sized to operate effectively at the lowest engine speed normally encountered -- that is, the speed of the engine when it is idling. It is only when the internal combustion engine is rotating at speeds well above the idle speed -- that is, within the normal operating range -- that all accessories are functioning well within their capabilities.

Because the accessories must heretofore have been sized to provide adequate output when the engine is idling, they have excess capacity at normal engine operating speeds. This over-capacity leads to unnecessarily high initial costs in providing the accessories for the vehicle, and adds unnecessary weight and bulk to the vehicle. The excess weight and bulk contribute to poor fuel economy and crowded engine compartments.

The power transmission disclosed herein provides an opportunity to utilise smaller accessories with less design capacity by driving such accessories from the power transmission rather than directly from the internal combustion engine.

5 In the invention disclosed herein, the accessories are driven by the connection of the electric motor/generator 14 to the power transmission 10. The minimum rotational speed of the electric motor/generator 14 is approximately three to four times the rotational speed of an internal combustion engine in the idling condition. When the internal combustion engine 11 is operating at a speed above the idle condition, the accessories are driven by the engine at the engine speed. The accessories may also be driven by the electric motor/generator 14 when the internal combustion engine 11 is not operating.

10 The accessory drive may also be moved from the front of the engine 11 to a position between the engine and the power transmission 10 input. The present invention can also be used with an automatic or manual drive transmission 39.

15 With continued reference to Figure 1, the power transmission 10 is shown with an accessory drive 52 connected to accessories, such as a power steering pump 53, an air conditioning compressor 54, an engine oil pump 55 and a transmission fluid pump 56. The accessory drive 52 is driven by the rotor 12 of the electric motor/generator 14 and is connectable by the first torque transfer device 33, through the hub 29, to the sun gear 24. This arrangement makes the engine 11 available for driving the accessory drive 52.

20 25 30 35 As depicted, a drive pulley 58 on the accessory drive 52 may be connected, as by a chain 59, to an accessory drive pulley 60. By selecting the relative diameters of the pulleys 58 and 60, the accessory drive 52 will be operable at speeds between 1.5 and ten times the speed of the internal combustion engine 11.

35 40 45 In the lever analysis depicted in Figures 3 to 8, the reference numbers used in these Figures correspond to the parts having the same reference number in Figures 1 and 2. It should also be understood that the electric motor/generator 14 may be controlled through the use of a system, such as that described in US Patent No. 4,883,973, incorporated herein by reference.

Engine Start Mode

50 55 Referring to Figure 3, a lever analogy for the power transmission 10 is presented to depict starting the internal combustion engine 11 by the torque applied from the electric motor/generator 14. Both the carriers 23 and 26 are grounded through the respective torque transfer devices 31 and 42, which, therefore, are acting as brakes. Grounding may be accomplished by simultaneously actuating the brakes 31 and 42 by virtue of a park lever, as represented by the dashed line 45. By thus grounding the carriers 23 and 26, a reactive speed

ratio may be established between the electric motor/generator 14 and the crank shaft (connected to, or equivalent to, the transmission input shaft 27) of the internal combustion engine 11.

By appropriate selection of the relative numbers of teeth on the sun and ring gears in each planetary gear set 19 and 21, a reactive speed ratio of the order of approximately 4:1 may be established. This ratio dictates the electric motor/generator torque. A silent start may be attained with this arrangement.

Obviously, the internal combustion engine 11 can only be started in this manner when the Park or Neutral Mode of the power transmission is employed. High generator output is also available in the Park or Neutral Mode. Prevention of gear rattle and a reduction in crank shaft pulsations may also be obtained by the provision of some reactive torque by the electric motor/generator 14. When employing an oil pump not driven by the internal combustion engine 11, brake 48 and automatic transmission brakes and clutches (torque transfer devices that ground the transmission input) may be actuated in Park or Neutral Mode for engine start. Automatic transmission operation with the power transmission 10 is effected by shifting from the Park or Neutral Mode to a Drive Mode.

It should also be appreciated that the generator field is reduced for shift feel when the carriers 23 and 26 are freed from ground by manipulation of the park lever 45.

A variation of the Start Mode may be achieved by replacing the dog clutch form of torque transfer device 31 with a friction clutch type of torque transfer device 48, as depicted in Figure 5. With this configuration, a pre-lube of the internal combustion engine 11 and the power transmission 10 may be provided by incorporating a switch, not shown, that energises the electric motor/generator 14 when the driver's door is open, thus driving the pumps 55, 56 and 53 for the engine, transmission and power steering, respectively. The one-way clutch 32 on the carrier 23 overruns. The internal combustion engine 11 is started by engaging the friction clutch 48. This friction clutch 48 must be able to hold the carrier reaction torque of approximately two times the torque of the electric motor/generator 14.

This embodiment of the invention allows the internal combustion engine 11 to be stopped while maintaining full accessory operation and engine start in park or drive. In the drive range position, an automatic transmission requires proper transmission clutches charged for launch and service brakes applied with sufficient pressure to hold reaction forces on the carrier 26 (transmission input).

For a manual transmission, the engine can be started in gear, with clutch pedal released and the

brakes applied with sufficient pressure to hold the reaction forces on the carrier 26. If the engine 11 is started in drive with an automatic transmission, reaction for the carrier 26 may be provided by the application of two or more friction elements within the transmission to prevent rotation of the sleeve shaft 37.

Vehicle Launch Mode

10 The Launch Mode is described in detail in the above mentioned US Patent No. 5,285,111, but it will be repeated herein in order to facilitate an overall understanding of the present invention.

15 With the engine running and in Launch Mode, the flywheel inertia of ring gear 28, and the attached components, react in both positive and negative directions with the engine crank shaft. The flywheel inertia of rotor 12 and the attached components react only in the positive or forward direction through one-way clutch 32, thereby requiring less energy to maintain the engine speed, while reducing idle shake. With specific reference to Figure 5, a lever analogy for the power transmission 10 is presented to depict launching of the vehicle. Two methods of launch may be used. The first -- designated as the heavy throttle, inertia-assisted method -- uses the torque transfer device 33 as a launching clutch. For example, with the internal combustion engine 11 operating at 600 RPM and the rotor 12 of the electric motor/generator 14 revolving at 2,300 RPM -- a 3.86 ratio -- the accelerator is depressed. Reaction is through the one-way clutch 32 to ground 30.

20 25 30 35 The internal combustion engine 11 is operated in a manner that would effect acceleration of the vehicle. The electric motor/generator 14 would also be accelerated. However, the torque transfer device 33 is applied to decelerate the electric motor/generator 14 at a controlled rate. The internal combustion engine 11 maintains its speed, and the torque resulting from the inertia of the rotor 12 is added to the torque applied by the internal combustion engine 11 during initiation of the launch. As the differential speed across the torque transfer device 33 decreases, the torque of the electric motor/generator 14 is increased to maintain a controlled rate of application to synchronous speed lock up.

40 45 50 55 The second or alternative method of launching a vehicle with the power transmission 10 is designated as the light to mid-throttle generator reaction launch. The light to mid-throttle generator reaction launch is accomplished by directing the launch reaction through the one-way clutch 32 to ground 30 and by controlling the speed by the electric motor/generator 14 through an electric, brake reaction to ground 30. With the internal combustion

engine 11 operating at 600 RPM and the rotor 12 of the electric motor/generator 14 revolving at 2,300 RPM, the accelerator is depressed. The reaction is through the one-way clutch 32 to ground 30, and the internal combustion engine 11 is operated in a manner that would effect acceleration of the vehicle. This would normally accelerate rotation of the electric motor/generator 14.

However, deceleration is provided by reversing the field of the stator 13, thereby causing the electric motor/generator 14 to act as an electric brake. This motor/generator reaction serves to charge the battery and also controls the rate at which the vehicle is accelerated. In this way it is possible to effect the desired acceleration with decreased throttle application in order to provide maximum economy of operation and to achieve the desired emission reduction, during the launch phase. The torque transfer device 33 may be applied at, or near, the synchronous speed and the motor/generator torque adjusted for the most desirable interaction.

It should also be appreciated that a bridging torque transfer device in the nature of brake 48 may be added in parallel with the one-way clutch 32 to provide an alternative means by which to effect torque reversal -- that is, to simulate electric field reversal and to effect regenerative braking -- when the torque transfer device 33 is not applied. That is, the rotor 12 of the electric motor/generator 14 rotates in the same direction as the internal combustion engine 11, and at a speed three to four times greater than the speed of the internal combustion engine 11 when the vehicle is stopped. This relative speed differential provides reaction for launch of the vehicle and inertia for virtually eliminating the undesirable jerking that might otherwise be felt when the torque transfer device 33 is actuated.

In either situation, it should be apparent that after the engine 11 starts, the brake 48 is released and, if in automatic drive or any manual gear transmission, the electric motor/generator 14 will supplement the accessory drive 52, reduce crank shaft torque spikes, provide constant torque to gear sets to prevent gear rattle and provide a desired amount of creep torque at transmission input. With a manual transmission in automatic launch mode the clutch pedal will not become active until depressed.

With the electric motor/generator 14 connected, as by a torque transfer device 33, to the sleeve shaft 37 and the transmission input shaft 27 the rotational speed of the accessory drive 52 will be the same as the rotational speed of the output pulley 35.

Motor/Generator Coupling Mode

Referring to Figure 6, a lever analogy for the power transmission 10 is presented to depict the motor/generator coupling phase after the torque transfer device 33 is engaged and the output torque ratio is increased, as for example, from 1.5:1 to 1.7586:1 times the torque supplied by the internal combustion engine 11. In this condition, the torque of the electric motor/generator 14 may be added or subtracted from the multiplied torque of the internal combustion engine 11. The resulting axial torque controlled by the electric motor/generator 14 assures the desired best performance by selectively optimising the operation of the internal combustion engine throttle opening for best fuel economy and desirable emissions.

Internal Combustion Engine Coupling Mode

Referring to Figure 7, the lever analogy for the power transmission 10 is presented to depict the condition of the compound planetary gear set 15 with the application of the engine torque transfer device (clutch) 34. The torque ratio changes from 1.786:1 to 1:1 times the engine torque. During this ratio change, and all subsequent transmission ratio changes, the electric motor/generator 14 may be used to bias the axial torque before, during and after the shifting or application of the clutch 34, resulting in less disturbance.

Regeneration Mode

Referring to Figure 4, the lever analogy for the power transmission 10 is presented to depict the regeneration mode -- that is, that mode whereby energy may be recovered when operating with the clutch 34 disengaged during deceleration and with the torque transfer device (clutch) 33 engaged so that the electric motor/generator 14 remains coupled to the sleeve shaft 37 -- which remains coupled to the final drive shafts, or axles, 41 -- for maximum energy recovery. The speed of the internal combustion engine 11 may be reduced. However, the speed of the internal combustion engine 11 may have to be increased in order to assist the electric motor/generator 14 should the driver seek to accelerate the vehicle.

The present power transmission 15 makes two torque ratios available when operating in the Regeneration Mode. For example, if the speed of the internal combustion engine 11 is increased, the one-way clutch 32 will react to ground 30 and -- with the same relative number of teeth on the sun and ring gears in the planetary gear sets 19 and 21 as heretofore assumed -- a power ratio of 1.7586:1 will be automatically provided. On the other hand, if

the clutch 34 is reapplied, a ratio of 1:1 will result.

During deceleration, the system operation is determined by driver input as well as the state of the battery charge. If a maximum charge is required, the power transmission 10 will drive the electric motor/generator 14 for the maximum output. If a minimum charge is required, the power transmission 10 will drive the electric motor/generator 14 at the optimum torque range before the system blends in the service brakes. In the event the service brake time, or temperature, becomes excessive, the clutch 34 would engage to provide engine braking.

Motor/Generator Only Mode

Only limited performance is available when driving the vehicle through the power transmission 10 solely by the electric motor/generator 14, as represented by the lever analogy presented in Figure 4.

Manual Transmission Options

The above-described power transmission 10 may also be used with manual ratio control systems. Starting the internal combustion engine 11 with a manual drive ratio system is the same as with an automatic drive ratio system. That is, both carriers 23 and 26 must be grounded for reaction.

During the Motor/Generator Coupling Mode and the Internal Combustion Engine Coupling Mode, operation with a manual drive ratio selection transmission 39 is the same as with an automatic drive ratio selection transmission. Once both the clutch 34 and the clutch 33 are applied, two methods of manual shifting are available. With the first method, both the engine clutch 34 and the motor/generator clutch 33 are switched over to manual clutch pedal control, and gear synchronisation may be achieved with synchronisers well known to those skilled in the art. Alternatively, the clutch 34 may be switched over to pedal control. When the clutch 34 is pedal actuated, and the clutch 33 is engaged, the electric motor/generator 14 provides precise control over the speed of the sleeve shaft 37. However, when the shift lever of the manual drive ratio selection transmission is moved into the next drive select gate, the electric motor/generator 14 is regulated to provide the synchronous speed necessary for the drive ratio selected. By eliminating the transmission synchronisers the cost of the input differential may be offset.

Another alternative manual transmission method during launch includes providing sequential manual control of first, the clutch 33 and sequentially thereafter the clutch 34.

Using the power transmission 10 in the Regeneration Mode may be accomplished with a manual drive ratio selection transmission in the same manner as previously described herein for the automatic drive ratio selection transmission. Operation in the Motor/Generator Only Mode with the manual drive ratio selection transmission may be provided during launch from a stopped condition with the electric motor/generator 14, but with the clutch 33 applied. Alternatively, the electric motor/generator 14 may be rotated with the clutch 33 manually applied to utilise the torque supplied by the inertia of the rotor 12 in the electric motor/generator 14, and any associated flywheel.

Releasing the clutch 33 may be necessary for changing gears, if total synchronisation is not possible. Also, a reverse transmission gear would be required to reverse the vehicle.

It should be understood that in normal cruising operation, the internal combustion engine 11 is the prime power source, and the electric motor/generator 14 provides additional power for vehicle demands, such as passing, without gear change, and going up hill. The electric motor/generator 14 also is controlled for providing the desired battery charge by recovering power as the vehicle is going down hill and/or decelerating. Controls may also be utilised to manipulate the internal combustion engine throttle for best fuel economy and improved engine emissions.

Electric Reverse Operation

With reference to Figure 8, it can be observed that a bridging torque transfer device in the nature of a clutch 51 provides a means for effecting complete disconnection of the internal combustion engine 11 from the power transmission 10. Reverse drive operation is provided by engaging both clutch 34 and brake 48 and selecting a forward ratio, preferably first gear, in the transmission. Thus, if the engine 11 becomes inoperable, the vehicle can be moved by utilising the electric motor/generator 14, just the same as the electric motor/generator continues to be able to operate the accessory drive 52.

Driving Accessories By Hybrid Transmission

With reference to Figure 5, the accessory drive 52 is shown with the internal combustion engine 11 stopped. For engine restart, the sleeve shaft 37 must be grounded. With electric motor/generator 14 driving the accessories, including transmission fluid pump 56, pressure is maintained to apply brake 48, providing reaction for planetary gear set 19. Reaction for planetary gear set 21 is provided by sleeve shaft 37, and engine 11 is rotated by

electric motor/generator 14.

From the foregoing description, it should be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that a power transmission is provided utilising planetary gear sets and clutches/brakes which can be configured so that accessories normally operated by an internal combustion engine can be driven by an electric motor/generator.

As should also be apparent, the present invention not only teaches that a power transmission embodying the concepts of the present invention not only permits the accessories to be operated at greater efficiency by the electric motor/generator but also accomplishes the other objects of the present invention.

The disclosures in United States patent application no. 125,901 from which this application claims priority, and the abstract accompanying this application, are incorporated herein by reference.

Claims

1. A power train for a vehicle having an internal combustion engine (11) to provide a source of torque and a drive ratio selection transmission (39), the power train comprising a power transmission (10); an electric motor/generator (14) operatively connected to the power transmission; and an accessory drive (52), the accessory drive being operatively connected to the power transmission.
2. A power train as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the accessory drive (52) is locatable between the internal combustion engine (11) and the drive ratio selection transmission (39).
3. A power train as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the accessory drive (52) is driven at between 1.5 times and 10 times the speed of the internal combustion engine (11) when the internal combustion engine is idling.
4. A power train as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the accessory drive (52) is driven at the speed of the internal combustion engine (11) when the vehicle is moving.
5. A power train as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the accessory drive (52) is driven by the electric motor/generator (14) when the internal combustion engine (11) is off.
6. A power train as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the power train further comprises an accessory (53-56), the accessory being driven by the accessory drive (52) and

being sized for operation at an engine speed greater than idle.

5. 7. A power transmission for a power train as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 comprising compounded first and second planetary gear sets (19,20), each having first gear means (24,16), second gear means (16,28), and a plurality of planetary gears (22,25) mounted on a carrier (23,26) and operatively connect to the first and second gear means of the respective planetary gear set, wherein the second gear means of the first planetary gear set and the first gear means of the second planetary gear set are defined by a common gear member (16), wherein the electric motor/generator (14) is adapted to provide torque to the first gear means of the first planetary gear set, and wherein the internal combustion engine is adapted to provide torque to the second gear means of the second planetary gear set; means (33) selectively to transfer torque between the electric motor/generator (14) and the carrier of the second planetary gear set; means (34) selectively to transfer torque to and from the drive ratio selection transmission (39) and the internal combustion engine through the carrier of the second planetary gear set; means (31,32) selectively connecting the carrier of the first planetary gear set to ground; and means (42) selectively connecting the drive ratio selection transmission to ground.
10. 8. A method of driving accessories through a power train as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 comprising the steps of energising the electric motor/generator (14) without starting the internal combustion engine (11); and driving the accessory drive (52) with the electric motor/generator.
15. 9. A method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the method comprises the further steps of starting the internal combustion engine (11); operating the internal combustion engine at an idle; and continuing to drive the accessory drive (52) with the electric motor/generator (14).
20. 10. A method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the method comprises the further steps of starting the internal combustion engine (11); operating the internal combustion engine at a speed above an idle; and driving the accessory drive (52) with the internal combustion engine.
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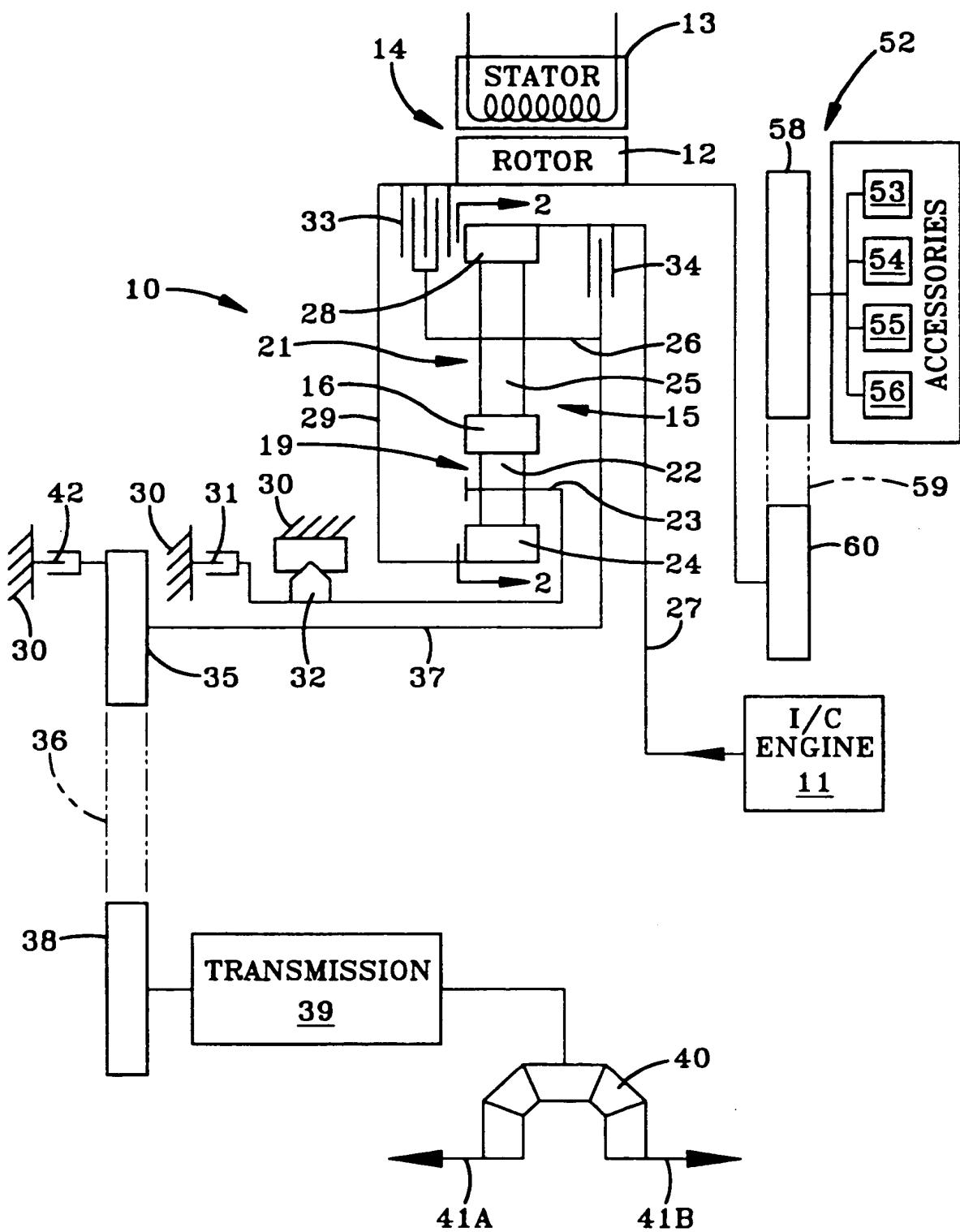


FIG - 1

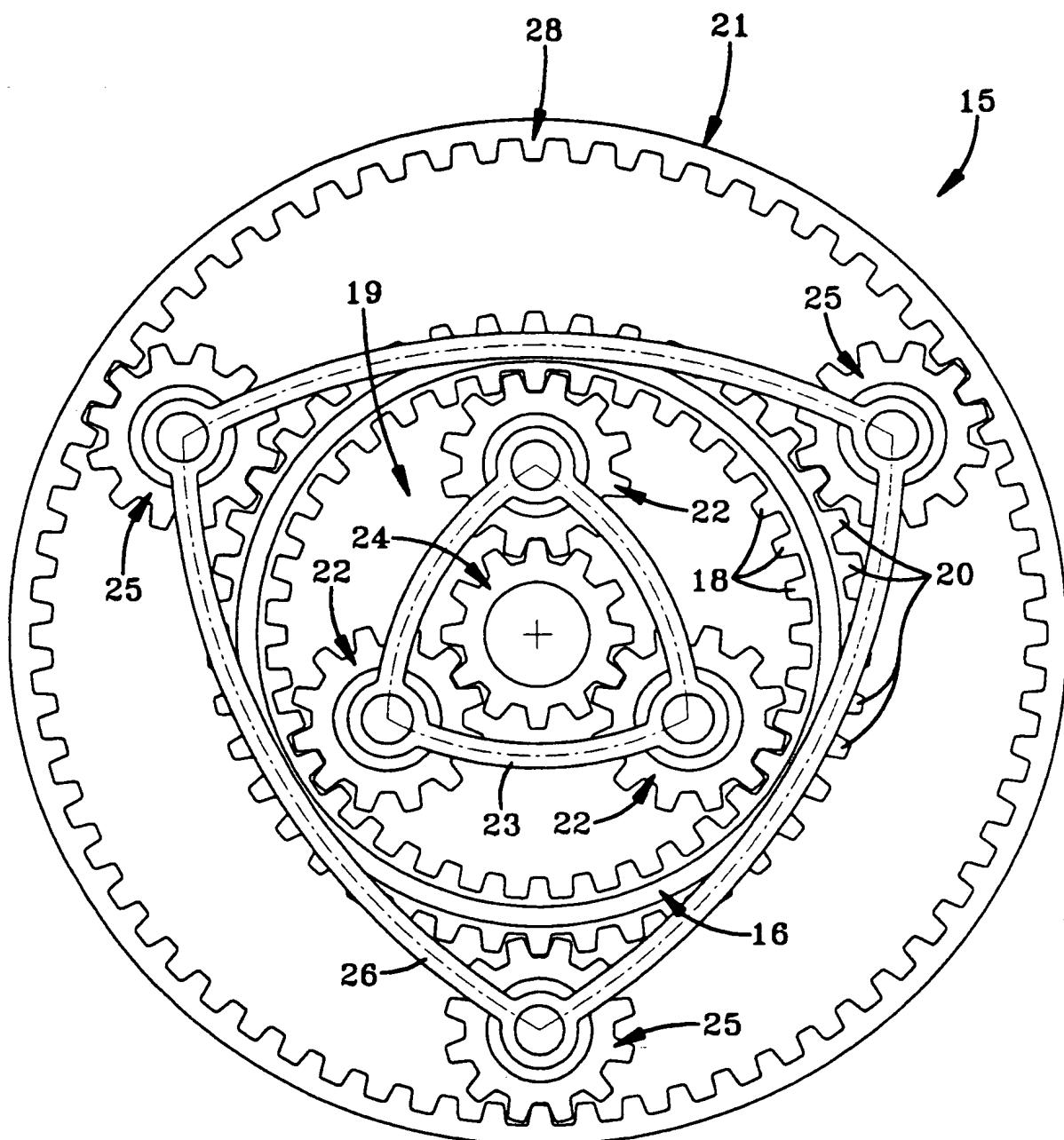


FIG-2

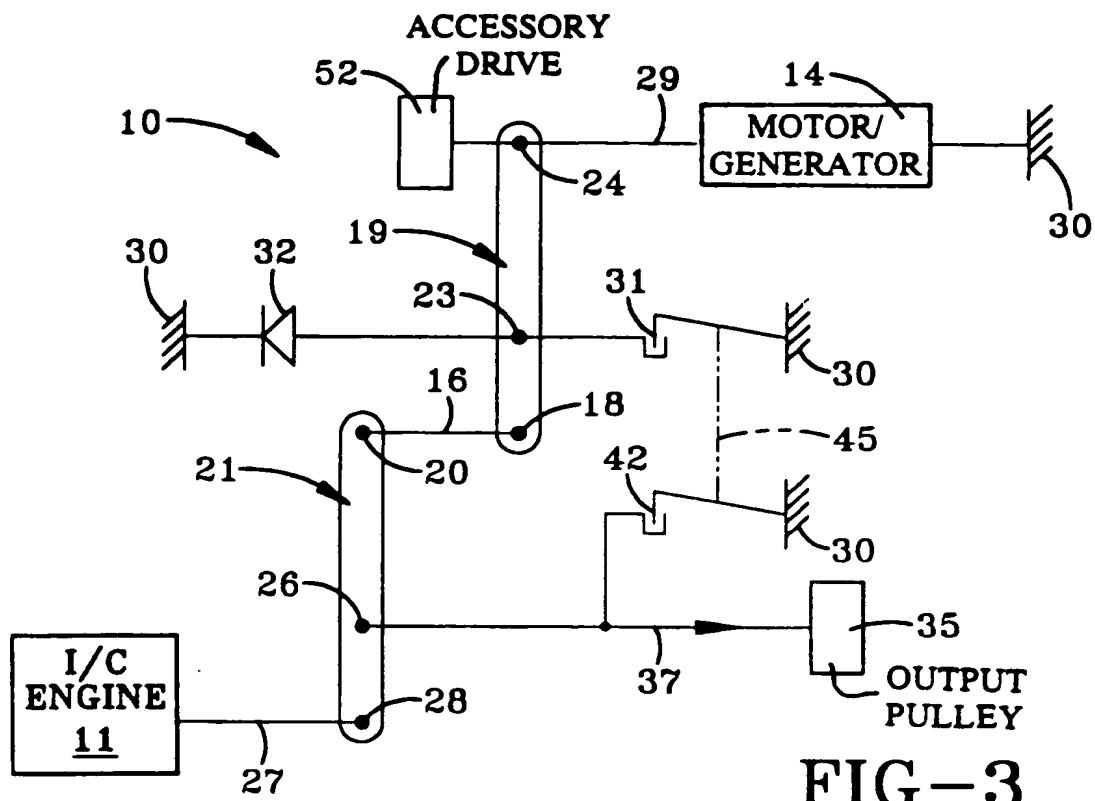


FIG-3

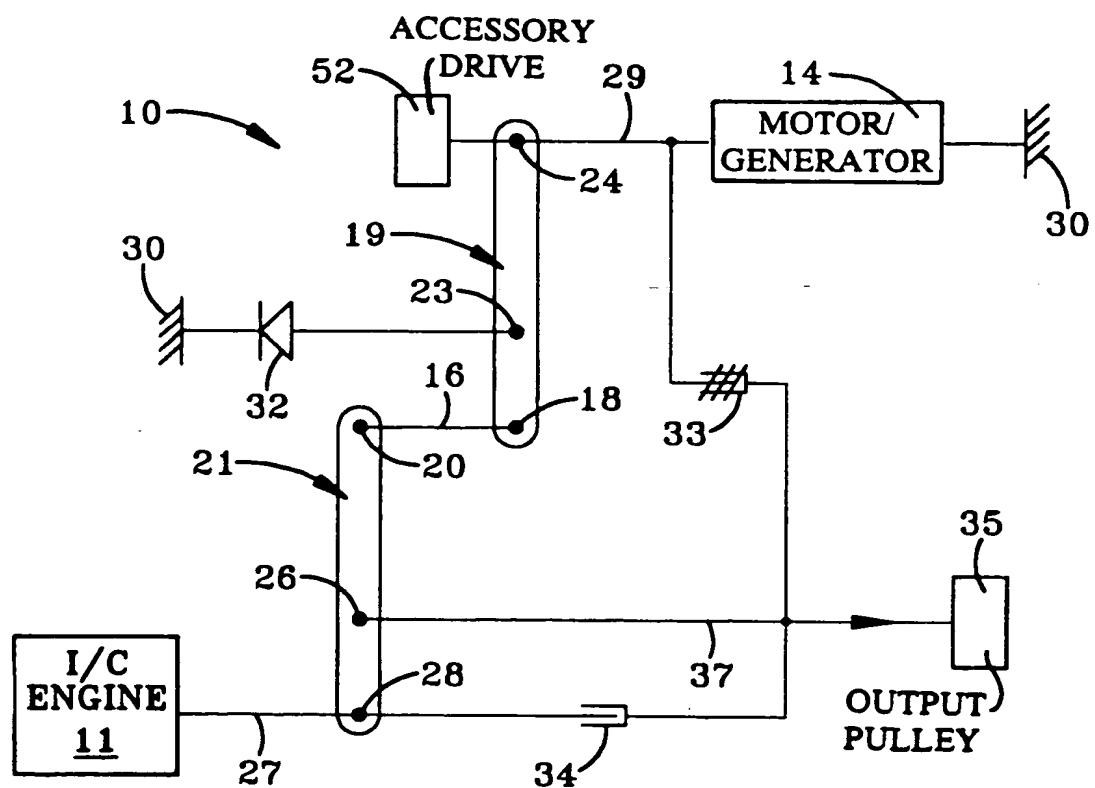


FIG-4

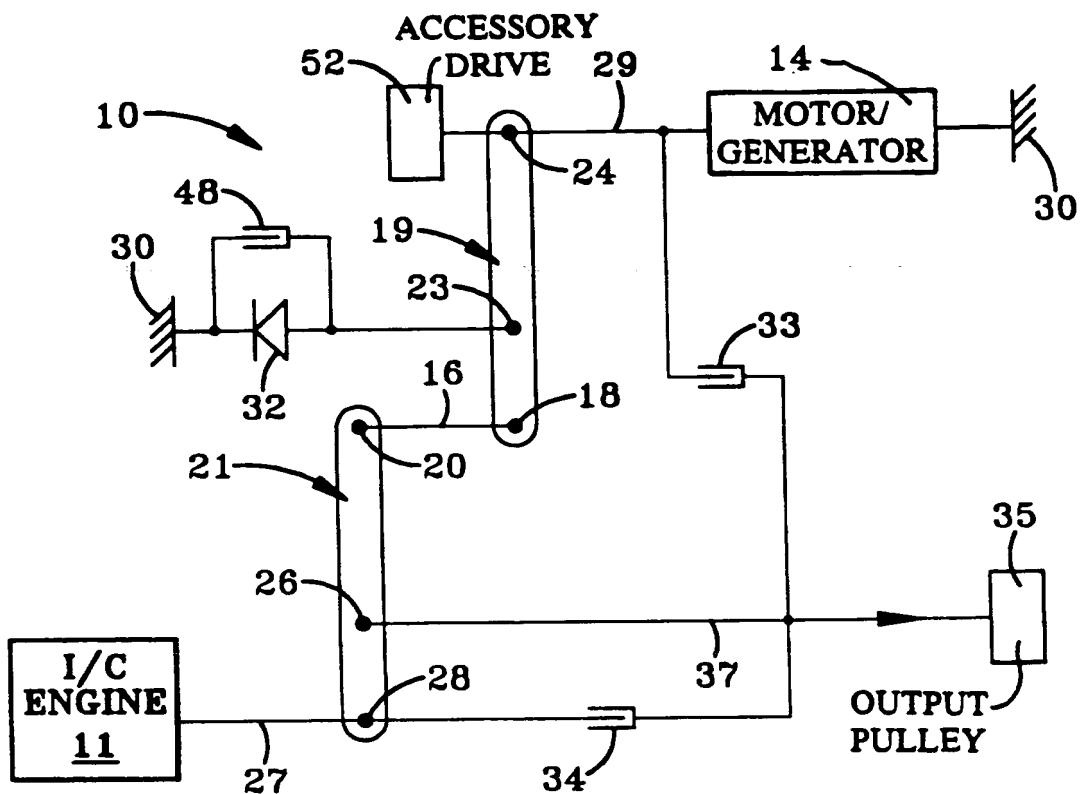


FIG-5

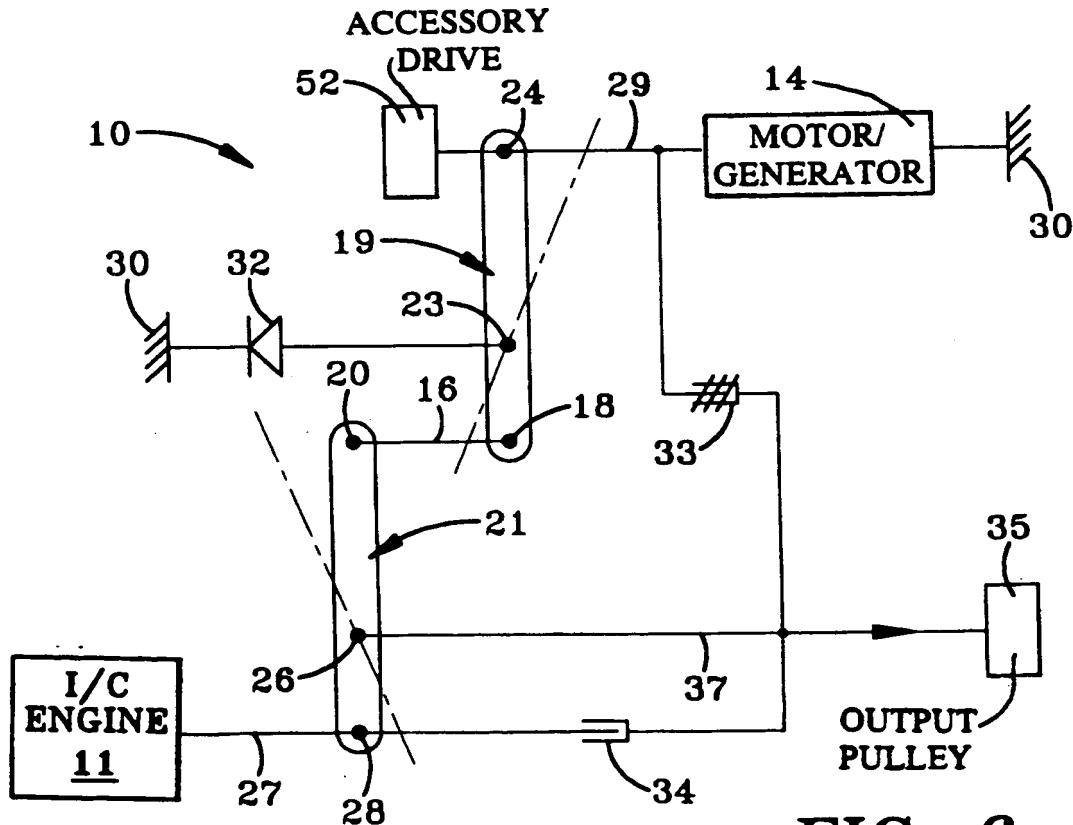


FIG-6

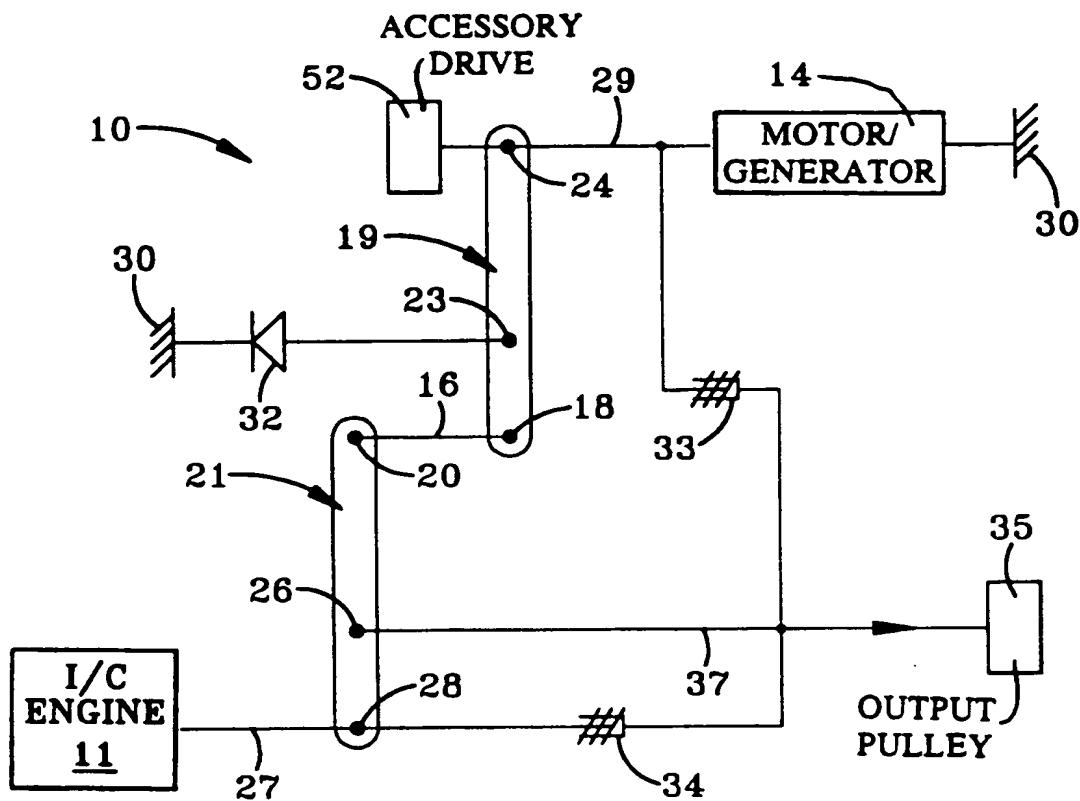


FIG-7

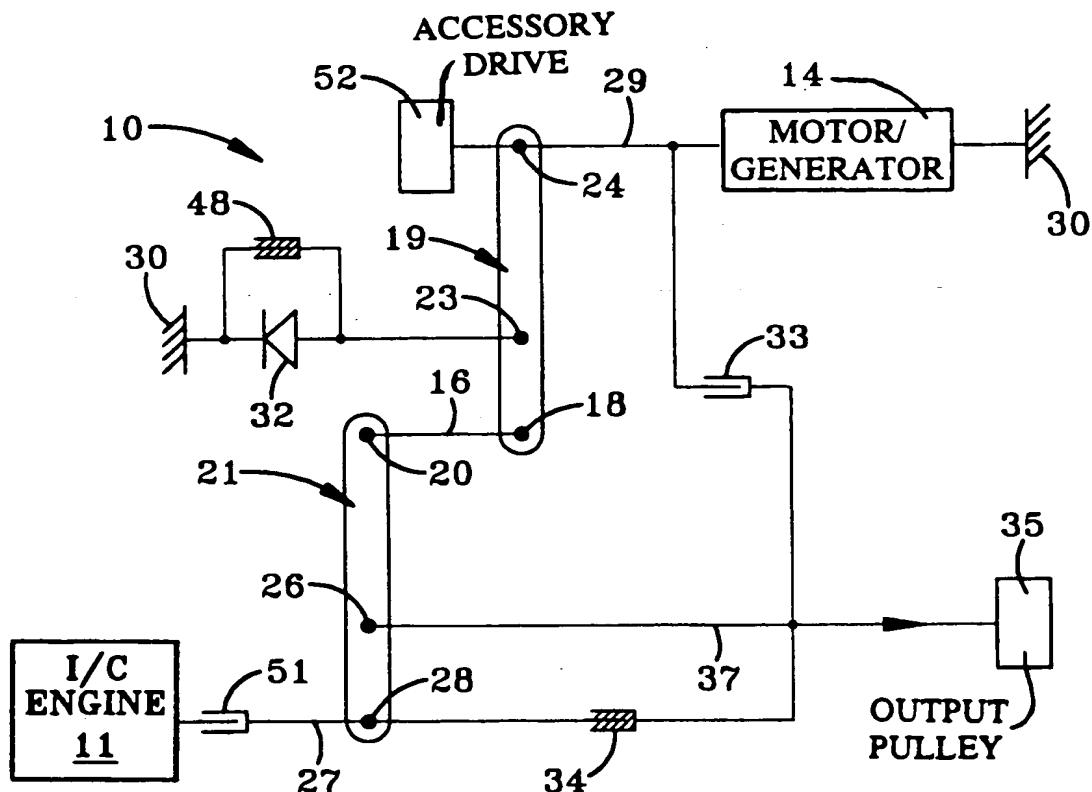


FIG-8

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⑫

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⑯ Inventor: Sherman, James Francis
7978 Whitmore Lake Road
Brighton,
Michigan 48116 (US)

⑲ Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

⑰ Representative: Denton, Michael John et al
Patent Section
1st Floor
Gideon House
28 Chapel Street
Luton
Bedfordshire LU1 2SE (GB)

⑳ Applicant: GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION
General Motors Building
3044 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit

④ Power train and power transmission therefor.

⑤ The present invention relates to a power train that is interposed between the internal combustion engine (11) and the drive ratio selection transmission (39) of a vehicle. An electric motor/generator (14) is operatively connected to a power transmission (10), and the power transmission selectively drives accessories (53-56) to the internal combustion engine, such as an oil pump, power steering pump and air conditioning compressor. The power transmission employs compounded first and second planetary gear sets (19,21). A common gear member (16) serves not only as the ring gear for the first planetary gear set but also as the sun gear for the second planetary gear set. The electric motor/generator drives the accessories when the internal combustion engine is idling or off, allowing those accessories to be smaller while delivering adequate output.

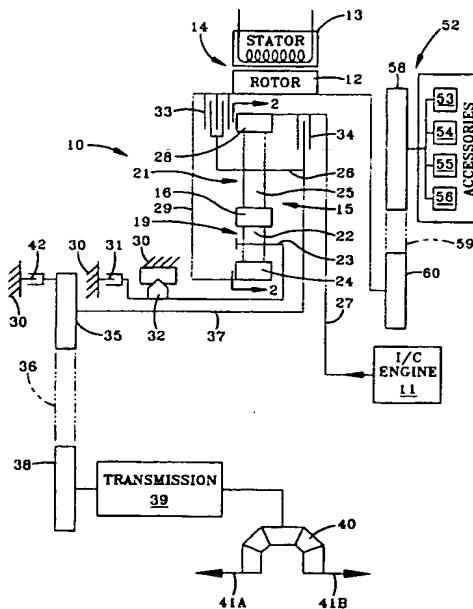


FIG-1

EP 0 645 271 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 20 2462

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)		
X	FR-A-2 200 800 (SAVIEM) * page 4, line 11 - line 32 * * page 5, line 20 - page 7, line 16; claim 3; figures 3,4 * ---	1,2,5,8	B60K6/02 F02B67/08 F16H3/64		
X	DE-A-41 23 843 (MAN NUTZFAHRZEUGE AG) * claim 7; figure 2 * ---	1,5,8,9			
P,X	EP-A-0 570 240 (MITSUBISHI JIDOSHA KOGYO K.K.)	1			
A	* column 2, line 6 - column 3, line 35; claims * ---	3-6,8-10			
P,D, X	US-A-5 285 111 (SHERMAN) * figures * & EP-A-0 622 262 (GENERAL MOTORS) ---	1,7			
A	US-A-3 699 351 (ADDIE) * column 2, line 36 - line 68; figure 1 * -----	1-10			
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)		
			B60K		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
THE HAGUE	6 July 1995	Bufacchi, B			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- ▲ : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					